



FACT SHEET

King River Ltd. Site New Boston, Ohio

December 1994

INTRODUCTION

The King River Ltd. (King River) site is located at 202 Vine Street in New Boston, Scioto County, Ohio. The site is 110 acres in area, and is bounded by State Route 52 and a shopping mall to the north; by open land and buildings associated with the New Boston Coke Corporation, an active coke production facility, to the east; and a large residential area to the west. The nearest residence is situated approximately 700 feet east of the site. Tracks owned by the Baltimore and Ohio and the Norfolk and Western railroads form the southern boundary of the site, and the Ohio River is within 50 feet of the southern boundary of the site.

SITE HISTORY

The King River site was formerly a steel mill that was owned and operated by the Cyclops Corporation, a division of Empire Detroit Steel. Following closure of the steel mill in the early 1980s, the property was sold several times. Under the terms of the property sale, the existing structures and fixtures were to be demolished. This demolition took place from late 1984 through 1989. During the demolition of the steel mill, 18 transformers containing oils contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a hazardous substance, were allegedly drained onto the ground in several areas, and the transformer shells were then sold as scrap.

In 1988, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) received reports that PCBs had been disposed onto the ground at the King River site. Subsequent investigations found that a total of six areas of the site contained PCB contamination. Through the efforts of state and local authorities, the potentially responsible party (PRP) took several measures to clean up the site between 1987 and 1988. These measures were overseen by OEPA representatives, and included the excavation of approximately 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the areas previously identified as having PCB contamination. The soil was then stockpiled within the former rolling mill building on the property. The excavated areas of the property were sampled to verify that remaining soil did not exceed the state of Ohio cleanup level of 25 parts per million (ppm) for PCBs. Sampling indicated that four of the six areas met the cleanup level; however, soil was found to contain PCBs at concentrations above this level in the two remaining areas, which had been excavated to a depth of 40 feet.

U.S. EPA ACTIONS AT THE SITE

In June 1988, OEPA contacted the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to request technical assistance at the King River site. A U.S. EPA inspection confirmed the PCB contamination at the site. In 1991 a court order was issued, directing the PRP to secure the site, dispose of all PCB-contaminated soil and other materials, and clean up the two remaining areas of PCB contamination. OEPA made continued attempts to enforce the order. In March 1993, as a result of the PRP's failure to conduct the necessary cleanup measures, U.S. EPA was requested to perform an assessment of the 6,000-cubic-yard stockpile of soil and the general site area. The assessment found that PCBs were being

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released to the environment from the stockpile, and also found additional areas of the property that were contaminated with PCBs at levels above 25 ppm.

On December 29, 1993, one of the companies that had been identified as a PRP agreed to comply with a U.S. EPA order to conduct further cleanup measures at the site. The PRP developed a work plan for the cleanup, which was reviewed and approved by U.S. EPA prior to the commencement of cleanup actions. The work plan specified that the cleanup would take place in two phases. Phase I consisted of establishing site security; developing and implementing a site health and safety plan; performing an assessment to determine the extent of PCB contamination above 25 ppm within the previously designated areas; and excavating the contaminated soil and storing it in the rolling mill building. Phase II of the cleanup included the disposal of all PCB-contaminated soil at an approved disposal facility.

In March 1994, Phase I of the cleanup began. Fences and earthen barriers were constructed to prevent unauthorized access to the site. The site assessment was conducted, and areas of the property containing PCB contamination were identified. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil was excavated from these areas and stockpiled with the previously excavated soil in the rolling mill building, bringing the total amount of contaminated soil to approximately 26,000 cubic yards. U.S. EPA conducted sampling of the newly excavated areas to verify that all soil containing PCBs at levels of greater than 25 ppm had been removed. Analytical results indicated that one area of the site required additional excavation. U.S. EPA plans to conduct further verification sampling.

In October 1994, U.S. EPA issued an order to the remaining PRPs, directing them to conduct Phase II of the cleanup, which included the transport and disposal of the PCB-contaminated soil and other waste. During November 1994, contractors for the PRPs began loading the contaminated soil onto railway cars for transport to a landfill that is regulated under the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) and can safely contain PCB-contaminated waste. U.S. EPA expects the transportation and disposal phase of the cleanup to be completed by Spring 1995.

CONTAMINANT OF CONCERN

PCB is the contaminant of concern at the King River site. On-site levels of PCBs have been found to be as high as 10,000 to 20,000 ppm. U.S. EPA considers PCBs on restricted-access industrial properties to be hazardous to human health at levels higher than 25 ppm. PCBs are potential carcinogens and acute exposure to PCBs can cause liver and skin disorders, and can also cause reproductive problems in women. To reduce the risks to human health and the environment, the manufacture of PCBs was banned in the United States in 1976.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the King River site, you may contact the following U.S. EPA representatives:

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